



News Release

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State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a health care provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Benton County

In March 2016 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Carolyn Jean Talley** (NA00084419) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say the state Department of Social and Health Services prohibited admissions into Talley's adult family home after an inspection revealed repeat deficiencies.

Clallam County

In March 2016 the Veterinary Board ended probation for veterinary technician **Chiara Olga Colella** (AT60219680).

Clark County

In March 2016 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Wendy Janelle Williams** (RN00117710) with unprofessional conduct. Williams allegedly didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract.

Grays Harbor County

In March 2016 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Richard Tyler Sholes** (LP60342517) with unprofessional conduct. Sholes allegedly overdosed on narcotics, and admitted using narcotics daily. Charges say narcotics were unaccounted for at the skilled nursing facility where Sholes worked.

King County

In March 2016 the Veterinary Board ended probation for veterinarian **Melissa Norton** (VT00003993).

In March 2016 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Christian V. Steppe** (RN00145873) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Steppe drank alcohol on a work break, entered into a substance abuse referral contract, and self-reported diverting and injecting narcotics.

In March 2016 the secretary of health withdrew notification of intent to issue a cease-and-desist order to **Myong Hwa Smith**.

In March 2016 the secretary of health withdrew notification of intent to issue a cease-and-desist order to **Myoung Tucker**.

In March 2016 the Medical Commission charged physician **Bjorn B. Krane** (MD00044958) with unprofessional conduct. Krane allegedly didn't communicate or perform required tasks adequately during a surgery he monitored, and made a late, inaccurate report.

In March 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Jun Wang** of its intent to issue a case-and-desist order. Wang allegedly performed massage without a license.

In March 2016 the Naturopathy Board charged naturopathic physician **Tristin Hilary Christene Wallace** (NT60083023) with unprofessional conduct. Wallace allegedly provided a medical marijuana authorization to a patient without taking the patient's condition into account and without meeting other requirements.

In March 2016 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **Karen P. Covey** (RN00150636) that requires her to re-enter a substance abuse monitoring program. Covey didn't comply with a previous substance abuse monitoring program.

In March 2016 the Pharmacy Commission entered an agreement with pharmacist **Nguyen Cam Tu** (PH00042604) that places him on probation for at least two years and fines him \$1,000. Tu dispensed an inhaler to his girlfriend with a love note instead of proper labeling information. Tu inaccurately billed for prescriptions, and provided friends and family members with his own leftover prescription medications.

In March 2016 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Melisa Wanja**

Kariuki (NC60213888) with unprofessional conduct. Upon finding that Kariuki financially exploited a vulnerable adult by using a client's pre-paid Visa account to buy items for herself, the state Department of Social and Health Services will not allow her to be employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

Pierce County

In March 2016 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant and certified nursing assistant **Zaldy Devera Frago** (NA60279244, NC60506600) with unprofessional conduct. Frago allegedly punched and kicked a patient at a psychiatric hospital where he worked.

In March 2016 the Chiropractic Commission ended conditions on the chiropractor credential of **Edward L. West** (CH00001640).

In March 2016 the Denturists Board entered an agreement with dentist **Nabegh Naguib Ghattas** (DN00000199) that places him on probation for at least a year and fines him \$2,500. Ghattas didn't follow adequate infection control and sanitation procedures in his office.

Snohomish County

In March 2016 the Medical Assistant Program charged interim certified medical assistant **Kelly R. Williams** (IC60578579) with unprofessional conduct. Williams allegedly practiced without a valid credential.

In March 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Linear Employment Professionals LLC**, doing business as Lenear Nursing Professionals and Linear Medical Professionals, of its intent to issue a case-and-desist order. The company allegedly contracted to provide health care staffing despite having no nursing pool license.

In March 2016 the Medical Commission charged physician **Wu Zhuge** (MD60087703) with unprofessional conduct. Zhuge allegedly created an unreasonable risk of harm to a patient before, during, and after performing surgery on the patient, causing harm to the patient's spinal nerves and nerve roots.

In March 2016 the Nursing Commission ended conditions on the registered nurse credential of **Juley Marie Petrowski** (RN00106523).

Spokane County

In March 2016 the Pharmacy Commission entered an agreement with pharmacist **Sean E. Dobbin** (PH00017990) that censures him and fines him \$1,000. Dobbin managed a hospital pharmacy where workers diverted large quantities of controlled substances.

In March 2016 the Medical Commission amended an agreement with physician **Lewis J. Meline** (MD00041815) that reflects his progress in meeting requirements imposed when he was placed

on probation in 2015. Meline had ongoing sexual and financial relationships with two patients who advertised themselves as escorts, prescribed testosterone for himself without keeping medical records, and wrote non-emergency prescriptions for family members without keeping medical records.

In March 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program entered an agreement with **Elizabeth A. Rubertas** that requires her to cease and desist from practicing phlebotomy without a license, and pay a \$1,000 fine. Rubertas, who has no medical assistant-phlebotomist license, admitted drawing blood from patients.

Thurston County

In March 2016 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with licensed practical nurse **Louise Irene Patrick** (LP00052991) that lifts her suspension and places her on probation for at least three years. Patrick practiced as a nurse with a suspended and expired credential. She didn't report a 2013 conviction for unlawful issuance of a bank check.

In March 2016 the secretary of health ended conditions on the credentials of certified nursing assistant, health care assistant and medical assistant-hemodialysis technician **Amy R. Edmunds** (NC10020330, HC00125799, HC60238351, HT60361771).

Out of State

California: In March 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program entered an agreement with **Feng Lin** that requires Lin to cease and desist from practicing massage without a license, and pay a \$1,000 fine. Lin practiced massage with no license.

Indiana: In March 2016 the Chiropractic Commission ended conditions on the chiropractor credential of **James W. McCluskey** (CH00033686).

Oregon: In March 2016 the Pharmacy Commission ended probation for out-of-state drug wholesale distributor **CK Non-Food Distributing Inc.** (FX00058218).

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

The [Department of Health website](http://doh.wa.gov) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*.

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